

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08
LAB-04 SIL-01 /071 W
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R 071759Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0444
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1804

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PFOR, PO
SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE

REF: (A) LISBON 1751 (DTG 041802Z MAR 77), (B) LISBON 1416 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL MAR 5 WARNED THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE PREPARING A MASSIVE STRIKE IN AN EFFORT TO PROVOKE A DICTATORSHIP. AMARAL'S REMARKS PARALLEL RECENT STATEMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER ABOUT A COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE. CUNHAL'S SPEECH ON THE SAME DAY DID NOT INDICATE THAT THE PCP HAS DECIDED TO PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS. HOWEVER, THE PCP CONTINUES ITS MUSCLE FLEXING IN THE LABOR SECTOR AND AMONG RURAL WORKERS IN THE ALENTEJO. END SUMMARY.

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1. CDS RAPS COMMUNISTS: CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL, SPEAKING AT THE MARCH 5 MEETING OF THE CDS POLITICAL COMMITTEE IN COIMBRA, SAID:
-- PCP IS FOMENTING LABOR AGITATION: THE COMMUNISTS AND CTGP ARE PREPARING A STRIKE OF ONE MILLION WORKERS IN THE CIVIL CONSTRUCTION, METALLURGICAL, TEXTILE, AND CHEMICAL SECTORS DESIGNED TO DESTROY THE EFFECTS OF GOVERNMENT

ECONOMIC MEASURES.

-- PCP PREFERS DICTATORSHIP: THE PCP OBJECTIVE IS A DICTATORSHIP OF THE LEFT. FAILING THAT, THE PCP WOULD PROVOKE A DICTATORSHIP OF THE RIGHT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT NO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT OF THE LEFT IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION.

-- LEFT AND RIGHT ARE INFILTRATING THE MILITARY: THE EXTREME LEFT, IN MOST CASES, AND THE EXTREME RIGHT, IN SOME CASES, HAVE SOUGHT TO INFILTRATE THE ARMED FORCES TO PROMOTE DESTABILIZATION. THE PRESIDENT AND THE MILITARY HIERARCHY, HOWEVER, ARE IN FULL CONTROL.

2. CUNHAL URGES SELF-RELIANCE: IN A MAR 5 ADDRESS TO THE PARTY FAITHFUL AT THE LISBON COMMEMORATION OF THE PCP'S 56TH ANNIVERSARY, COMMUNIST LEADER CUNHAL SOUNDED SOME FAMILIAR THEMES. HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

-- THE PCP ALTERNATIVE: THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE PS-SUPPORTED POLICY OF CAPITALIST RECOVERY. IT IS BASED ON CONSOLIDATION OF REVOLUTIONARY CONQUESTS, ECONOMIC SELF-RELIANCE, AND UNITY OF THE LEFT.

-- DENIES SUBVERSION: THE PCP IS NOT ENGAGED IN SUBVERSION. THE PCP IS DEFENDING THE CONSTITUTION WHEN IT DEFENDS NATIONALIZATIONS, AGRARIAN REFORM, AND WORKER CONTROL.

-- EC APPLICATION A MISTAKE: PORTUGAL'S IMMEDIATE OR MEDIUM TERM ENTRY INTO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WOULD ONLY PROMOTE CAPITALIST RECOVERY AND LOWER THE STANDARDS OF LIVING OF PORTUGUESE WORKERS.

-- DIVERSITY NEEDED: PORTUGAL MUST DIVERSIFY ITS FOREIGN RELATIONS. OVERRELIANCE ON THE COMMON MARKET AND THE CONFIDENTIAL

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UNITED STATES PLACES PORTUGAL AT THE MERCY OF FOREIGN IMPERIALISM.

3. COMMENT: FREITAS DO AMARAL'S MESSAGE OF ALARM OVER A NEW COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE ECHOES WHAT EANES AND SOARES RECENTLY TOLD THE AMBASSADOR (REFTELS). NEVERTHELESS, CUNHAL'S COMMENTS, WHILE SHARPLY CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT, STILL DO NOT INDICATE THAT THE PCP HAS DECIDED TO PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PCP IS IMPROVING ITS BARGAINING POWER THROUGH MUSCLE FLEXING IN THE LABOR SECTOR AND AMONG RURAL WORKERS IN THE ALENTEJO. CARLUCCI

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